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TRENCH SHORING DEVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to shoring devices for trenches and other open excavations employed in construction industry.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to devices for shoring open excavations. The device includes a pair of shoring panels held vertically apart and parallel to each other against sidewalls of excavation by a pair of strutting assemblies. Each shoring panel has laterally, on either end, a vertical guide edge and lengthwise two identical cutting edges of triangular cross section. The cutting edges are inversely arranged one on the top and the other at the bottom of the panel and opposite relative to sidewall of excavation. The panel is therefore versatile and is used all ways, inside out or upside down. Each strutting assembly has a pair of vertical struts held against each other by at least one horizontal strut that is fastened by pin or bolts onto vertical struts. Each vertical strut is provided lengthwise with a circular guide channel encompassing the guide edge of shoring panel and interlocking with it, so that shoring panels slide independently from each other, while the strutting assembly can adjust different pipe culverts.

The components of this shoring device are assembled together during first stage of excavation, up to 4 ft. deep, and create altogether a two side wall box. Afterward, the panels are pushed down one at time and independently to each other as excavation progresses. If depth of excavation is superior to height of the panel, another such shoring device is stacked above the previous one. The removal from the ground of such shoring device is easier consisting of simply removing the strutting assemblies first and the panels afterward.

There are many shoring devices used for securing the walls of open excavations and the working space inside it. One type of such shoring devices, commonly called trench shields, have usually two panels held by individual spreaders pinned or bolted onto the extremities of each panel via flanges or fixed connectors. The panels are usually provided with a cutting edge at the bottom part to facilitate penetration into the ground. The majority of these devices are rigid in a sense that they do not allow relative movement between spreaders and panels and most of the time their installation is achieved after excavation.

Another type of shoring device, commonly called slide rail shoring system, has a plurality of pairs of opposite rails or supporting columns spaced along the trench so that each pair is supported by a strutting frame which slides within opposite rail supports. Each rail support is provided on either side with guide channels where edges of large shoring panels slide within so that every two adjacent rails are connected with at least one shoring panel. This type of shoring device is currently used in the construction projects despite aversion in costs, weight and structural damages during utilization.

Knowing shoring device that has panels sliding vertically within excavation without using vertical support columns is disclosed in US Patent 6,224,296 (Fukumori). This device uses two pairs of large shoring panels. The first pair of panels, which shores the upper part of trench pressing against the excavation walls, is fixed at ground level. The second pair of panels slides within first pair shoring thereby the lower part of excavation. Both pairs of panels are connected and use sets of rigging to control the installation and removal of this device. Such device perform poorly in deep excavation and requires accurate installation regarding the space between first pair of panels their parallelism, etc... The removal of the panel is also associated with damages of guiding pair of panels.

US Patent Nos. 3,910,053 and 4,657,442 (Krings), Nos. 5,310,289 and 5,503,504 (Hess et al.), Nos. 6,164,874 (May) disclose various slide rail shoring system, all of them including multiple pairs of columns, spreader systems and large shoring panels. The support columns and the spreader systems used with these shoring systems are very heavy and are often hammered to push it down which often results with strong damages and heavy costs in maintenance.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Substantially, the intent of present invention is to provide a shoring device of type described above that allows shoring panels to slide independently to each other so that the device could be lowered progressively as excavation progresses while supporting the excavation walls.

Pursuing this objective and others that will be explicit subsequently, one important aspect of the present invention resides on design of a strutting assembly that slides vertically

formolckingly along the guides of shoring panels accommodating different pipe culverts and securing the soils surrounding the excavation while shielding the working space inside it.

Another aspect of this invention is the introduction of a shoring panel having two identical cutting edges fixed lengthwise one on the top and the other at the bottom of the panel. Thus, each panel could be used upside down or inside out according to the need of the user. Yet stacking of such devices over each other is considerably simplified as the cutting edge of the upper panel is supported, vertically and horizontally, by the cutting edge of lower panel eliminating thereby the need of using heavy arches to support the load on upper panels. Moreover, a major aspect coming with this invention relates the removal of such shoring devices when stacked over each other. As the contact between bottom and upper panel is made along the inclined plan defined by the cutting edges, it is possible to remove the bottom panel first and the upper panel afterward by just lifting preliminary the strutting assembly on the upper panels.

The new features considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in the appended claims. Other advantages of the invention will be appreciated in view of the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a sectional view of a trench showing two shoring panels and a strutting assembly in between.

FIG. 2 is a top view of the shoring device showing the pair of panels and the pairs of strutting assembly as installed in a trench.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line I-I of the FIG. 1, showing the cross section of the guide edge of the panel and its receiving guide channel in the strutting assembly.

FIG. 4 is a front view of a panel showing its basic features.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line II-II of the FIG. 4, showing the upper and lower cutting edges of the panel.

FIG. 6 is a front view of strutting assembly having one horizontal strut.

FIG. 7 is a sectional view taken along the line III-III of the FIG. 6, showing the structure of the strutting assembly.

FIG. 8 is a front view of strutting assembly provided with two horizontal struts.

FIG. 9 is a front view of strutting assembly provided with rollers.

FIG. 10 is a sectional view taken along the line I-I of the FIG. 1, showing a panel receiving a guide edge embedded in the strutting assembly.

FIG. 11 is a sectional view taken along the line I-I of the FIG. 1, showing a panel receiving a guide edge of rectangular cross section embedded in the strutting assembly.

FIG. 12 is a sectional view taken along the line I-I of the FIG. 1, showing a panel having a guide edge of rectangular cross and its receiving guide channel in the strutting assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the drawings where like numerals indicate like elements, various embodiments incorporating the new features of the present invention are illustrated. The shoring device has one pair of panels and one pair of strutting assemblies. FIG. 1 illustrates a pair of panels **1A** and **1B**, which are located symmetrically on either side of the trench held by the strutting assembly comprising a pair of vertical struts **2A**, **2B** and the horizontal strut **3**.

The figure FIG. 2 shows a top view of the arrangement of the panels **1A** and **1B**, one first strutting assembly consisting of vertical struts **2A, 2B** and the horizontal strut **3A**, and a second strutting assembly comprising the vertical struts **2C, 2D** and the horizontal strut **3B**.

As shown in the FIG. 3, the panel **1** has at extremity a guide edge **4** of tubular cross section. The vertical strut **2** consists of a guide channel **5** encompassing the guide edge **4** of panel **1**, the support flange **6**, the horizontal tube **7**, the contact flange **10A**, the vertical reinforcement pieces **8A**, **8B**, the horizontal stiffener **9** and a lifting plate **12** provided with a hole, not shown. The horizontal strut **3** is fastened by bolts **11A** and **11B** via flange **10B** onto the vertical strut **2**. The guide channel **5** interlock horizontally with guide edge **4** while allowing the vertical movement of panel **1** relative to vertical strut **2**.

FIG. 4 shows the panels **1** having lateral guiding edges **4A** and **4B** along either end, the cutting edges **16A** and **16B** respectively at the bottom and upper part of the panels, and the lifting plates **13A**, **13B**, **13C**, **13D**. Two extra lifting and/or pulling cross bars **15A** and **15B** are provided within square holes **14A** and **14B**.

As shown in FIG. 5, the cutting edges **16A** and **16B** are orientated reverse relative to each other and relative to the plan of panel **1** itself. So that when the panel **1** is rotated with 180 degrees around an axis perpendicular to the plan of FIG. 5 the cutting edges **16A** and **16B** switch position. A simple way of forming the cutting edges is by welding together an angle **18** with a flat bar **17**.

FIG. 6 illustrates more in details the strutting assembly consisting of vertical struts **2A**, **2B** and the horizontal strut **3**. The tubes **7A** and **7B**, which are used as supports for the connection of horizontal strut **3** onto vertical struts **2A, 2B**, could be of round or rectangular cross section. The tube **7A** is provided with a hole **19** representing the case of a pin connection with the horizontal strut **3**, while the tube **7B** is bolted onto strut **3** via flanges **10A** and **10B** by using bolts **11A** and **11B**. A view of vertical reinforcement pieces **8A**, **8B** and stiffeners **9A**, **9B**, **9C** and **9D** is also illustrated for the vertical strut **2B**.

As shown in FIG. 7 the guide channels **5A** and **5B** are respectively welded onto the support flanges **6A** and **6B** via flat bars **21A, 21B** and **22A, 22B**. The pin **20** represent a connection of choice between horizontal strut **3** and tube **7A**.

FIG. 8 illustrates a strutting assembly consisting of two vertical struts **2A**, **2B** and two horizontal struts **3A**, **3B**. The vertical struts are provided with lifting plates **23A**, **23B**, **23C** and **23D** with holes respectively noted **24A**, **24B**, **24C** and **24D**.

As shown in FIG.9, the vertical struts **2A** and **2B** are provided with rollers **25A**, **25B**, **25C** and **25D** rotating respectively around the axles **26A**, **26B**, **26C** and **26D**, so that the strutting assembly could slide easier.

FIG. 10 shows a cross section of another type of connection between panel **1** and the vertical strut **2**. In this case, the panel is provided at extremity with a circular guide channel **4** while the vertical strut **2** has tubular guide edge **5** sliding within.

As showing in the FIG. 11, another type of sliding connection between vertical strut **2** and the panel **1** could be achieved by using the 'C' type guide channel **4** and the 'T' type guide edge **5**. Yet, the reverse is showing in FIG. 12, where the panel **1** is provided with a 'T' type guide edge, while the vertical strut 2 has a 'C' type guide channel **5**.

While the invention is illustrated and described in a trenching application it is not intended to be limited to the details shown since some various modifications or structural changes would not change the basic structure and principle of present invention.